

border myself along with Senator COLEMAN.

We went to Tijuana and San Diego, Fort Huachuca in Arizona. We saw firsthand the mechanisms that are available and being used today that will secure our border. We also saw firsthand the huge holes because we have neither funded the intelligence equipment and the eyes in the sky nor put the manpower on the border.

I, for one, will hold myself responsible and will be a reminder to this entire Senate that when we pass an appropriations act this year for Homeland Security and enforcement of immigration and customs, if it doesn't include the unmanned aerial vehicles we need on the border and the agents we need to enforce immigration law, then we are turning our back on a problem that began in 1986 and has continued until this day, and that is the benign neglect of us to fund the necessary equipment, manpower, and material to make the laws of this country work to allow people to come here in the right way as easily as possible but with accountability, and the people who come here the wrong way, to know there is a consequence to pay.

Human nature is human nature. People will respond when they know what the story is. Right now, they know the story is that it is easier to get here by sneaking in. In this measure, we send a signal that there will be no amnesty, no more free pass nor a continued flow of illegal people coming into this country. Instead, there will be consequences for ignoring the law, and there will be respect and appreciation for a normal, rational immigration process to work, so that America's labor needs are met, but America respects the borders between ourselves, the nation of Canada and the nation of Mexico.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to express my support for the Senator's view that we need to certify that we have the enforcement system working for the immigration system before we make these other changes that allow people to be given amnesty or be given a right to stay here in some lawful way.

The reason that is important is this: To boil it down in 1 minute before I yield the floor, the reason that is important is that once we pass the policies—the amnesty that is in this bill, or whatever policies we eventually pass—to deal with new immigration for years to come or to deal with those already here, that becomes law then. The problem has been that no President whom I know of—Presidents Carter,

Reagan, Bush, Clinton, or Bush—has ever taken it as a personal interest to ensure that what happens on our borders actually works. So they have not asked for more money, more people or asked sufficiently for technology for it to work. And the Congress, as the Senator said, often doesn't fund it.

So what are we saying? Fundamentally, what happened in 1986, I believe, was that amnesty was granted and the promise to create a legal system in the future never developed. We have a very rightful responsibility to make sure that doesn't happen again. I think that is the intent of the Senator's amendment. I look forward to studying it, and I thank him for offering it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask consent I be allowed to continue for a few minutes as though in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ERMA BYRD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon my wife Marcelle and I went and said our final farewells to our Erma Byrd, the wife of our distinguished colleague and friend, Senator ROBERT BYRD of West Virginia. Marcelle and I have been privileged to know both Senator and Mrs. Byrd for well over 30 years.

While there, we talked with the distinguished senior citizen from West Virginia and told him how much that relationship meant, but especially how much it meant to us to see a love affair such as theirs, one that continued from the time they were teenagers to the time of Mrs. Byrd's death.

Mrs. Byrd and my wife used to sometimes drive down together for Senate spouse meetings. Every time Marcelle would come back, she would tell me something new and valuable she had learned from Erma and how much that friendship meant.

In recent times, when illness stopped her ability to come here, I would talk with my good friend ROBERT BYRD and ask him how Erma was doing and to tell him that both she and Robert were in our prayers and our thoughts. Many of us will be at the funeral this weekend out of respect for both of them. I will be thinking of the privilege it has been to have known them both and how privileged I am to still have as a dear friend and colleague Senator ROBERT C. BYRD.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. FRIST pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 419 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator ROCKEFELLER, and under rule VI, paragraph 2, I ask that he may absent himself from Senate business and any rollcall votes during his recuperation from recent back surgery.

#### SECRETARY OF INTERIOR GALE NORTON

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of a good friend of mine and a distinguished public servant, Secretary of Interior Gale Norton. Today is her final day as Secretary of Interior. I am certain that her presence in that position will be missed.

Secretary Norton hails from my home State of Colorado where she built a reputation as a hardworking conservationist and public servant. In Colorado she served as the State's attorney general where she represented the State before the Supreme Court on several occasions. But arguing cases before the Supreme Court wasn't challenging enough for Gale, so when asked by President Bush to be the first female to head the Department of Interior she wholeheartedly agreed.

Throughout her time at Interior she employed a commonsense approach and an understanding of Western issues which has proven to be an asset to the agency and the Nation. It is vital to have someone who appreciates Western issues as Secretary of Interior. This understanding is so crucial because, on average, 52 percent of the land mass in the 13 Western States is federally owned, while the average for the rest of the Nation is 4 percent.

Secretary Norton has guided Interior through one of the most challenging periods in the Department's history with an enthusiasm, confidence, and expertise that will be difficult to match.

She saw the Department through some of the most devastating fire seasons in recent history, and in response